

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TAGS: CASC, RP (ROCAMORA, JOEL)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CASE: W/W JOEL ROCAMORA

REF: MANILA 2524

SUMMARY. AS RESULT OF CALL ON SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA FEB 26, MRS. ROCAMORA WILL SUBMIT INFORMAL LETTER TO DFA REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR HUSBAND TO DEPART. THE SOLICITOR GENERAL INDICATED HE HAD STILL TO CHECK WITH GENERAL VER BUT IN GENERAL IMPLIED THAT APPLICATION WOULD BE APPROVED. END SUMMARY.

1. POL COUNSELOR ACCOMPANIED MRS. NANCY ROCAMORA ON CALL ON SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA FEB 26 TO PURSUE QUESTION OF POSSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DEPARTURE OF HUSBAND JOEL ROCAMORA FROM THE PHILIPPINES. PRIOR TO CALL ON SOLICITOR GENERAL MRS. ROCAMORA INDICATED CONCERNS OF HERSELF AND HER FATHER'S LAWYER THAT SOLICITOR GENERAL MIGHT BE PARTY TO AN EFFORT TO ENTRAP JOEL ROCAMORA. THESE CONCERNS ALLAYED SOMEWHAT BY DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY STEPS THE SOLICITOR GENERAL HAS TAKEN TO FACILITATE CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBILITY FAVORABLE ACTION ON HER HUSBAND'S DESIRE TO LEAVE PHILIPPINES.

2. DURING DISCUSSION WITH SOLICITOR GENERAL, MRS. ROCAMORA, AT HIS REQUEST, OUTLINED THE REASONS WHY SHE BELIEVED HER
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HUSBAND WAS WANTED BY NISA. ALTHOUGH HER INABILITY TO IDENTIFY BY NAME ANY NISA OFFICIALS INITIALLY DIS-

INCLINED HIM TO BELIEVE HER ALLEGATIONS, HER RECITATION OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE PROBABLY SERVED TO AROUSE HIS INTEREST IN MAKING ULTIMATE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH POSSIBILITY OF ROCAMORA DEPARTURE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY CHECKED WITH ARMY INTELLIGENCE, WITH GENERAL OLIVAS OF METROCOM PERSONALLY, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF U.P. ARRESTS, AND WITH ONE OF THE SENIOR ASSISTANTS OF GENERAL VER; HE IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD ALSO GET GENERAL VER'S CLEARANCE, NOTING THA GENERAL VER HAD BEEN ABSENT (IN BALI) FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

3. SOLICITOR GENERAL SUGGESTED THAT SHE WRITE AN INFORMAL LETTER TO DFA UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES (A) REQUESTING PERMISSION TO LEAVE, (B) NOTING HUSBANDS ADMISSABILITY INTO UNITED STATES, (C) WRITING LETTER USING BOTH HER NAME AND HER HUSBAND'S NAME, SIGNED BY HER FOR BOTH OF THEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT LETTER BE COURSED THHROUGH HIM SO THAT HE COULD PERSONALLY ENDORSE IT TO UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES AND MAKE SURE IT GOT TO COLLANTES' OFFICE. HE SAID THAT INFORMAL LETTER WOULD BE ADEQUATE ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ACT AND ADVISE AS TO WHETHER ROCAMORA COULD DEPART. HE SAID HE WOULD ENSURE THAT HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FINAL DECISION BEFORE IT WAS SET IN CONCRETE AND TO INCLUDE HIS RECOMMENDATION (WHICH HE SAID WOULD CARRY SOME WEIGHT) BEFORE THE RESPONSE WAS MADE TO HER LETTER.

4. ON BASIS OF SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA'S RECOMMENDATIONS, MRS. ROCAMORA AGREED TO COURSE LETTER TO UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES, THROUGH SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA FRIDAY, FEB 27, WITH COPY TO THE EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: THE SOLICITOR GENERAL WAS EVEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. ROCAMORA THAN HE HAS BEEN SO FAR. ASSURANCES PROVIDED DURING THAT DISCUSSION WOULD SUGGEST THAT GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO LET ROCAMORA DEPART, QUICKLY, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO "SERIOUS" CHARGES AGAINST HIM. THERE REMAINS POSSIBILITY, WHICH WE ASSUME IS REMOTE, THAT CHECK WITH GENERAL VER MAY
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REVEAL SERIOUS EVIDENCE AGAINST ROCAMORA BUT NEITHER MENDOZA NOR MRS ROCAMORA THOUGHT THAT LIKELY (MRS. ROCAMORA TOLD POL COUNSELOR PRIVATELY SHE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE HER HUSBAND WAS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST GOVERNMENT) AND SOLICITOR GENERAL'S INVOLVEMENT IN CASE ENSURES THAT NISA EVIDENCE WILL BE SENSITIVELY EVALUATED.
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